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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

United States of America,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Ian William Moses,
Defendant.

Case No. CR-25-0657-PHX-DJH

GOVERNMENT'S DETENTION MEMORANDUM

Defendant should be detained pending trial because he is serious flight risk and danger to the community. Defendant purposefully set fire to Tesla property, including new electronic vehicles, leading to a dangerous explosion. Defendant cannot overcome the statutory presumption that there are no conditions of release that will protect the community from Defendant or reasonably assure his appearance at future hearings because he was indicted on multiple counts of 18 U.S.C. § 844(i), Malicious Damage to Vehicle or Property in Interstate Commerce³. *See* 18 U.S.C. §§ 2332b(g)(5)(B), 3142(e)(3)(C).

As set forth below, Defendant is a serious flight risk as his plan of attack and escape was meticulously planned out; strongly suggesting he will not comply with court ordered conditions and flee if given the opportunity. Finally, Defendant's willingness to incinerate a business and vehicles with massive lithium-ion batteries, clearly poses a serious danger to the public. Defendant intended to cause destruction and he is fortunate that the explosion

1 from a Tesla vehicle -- parked near a rear entryway door to the building -- did not injure,
2 maim, or kill anyone, including first responders.

3 For these reasons, the government respectfully recommends Defendant be detained
4 pending trial.

5 **BACKGROUND**

6 During the early morning hours on April 28, 2025, Defendant parked his white town
7 and country van near Rowen and Flower streets in Mesa, Arizona. At some point,
8 Defendant rode his bicycle to the Mesa Tesla Dealership, which was approximately a
9 quarter mile away. At approximately 1:29 a.m., Defendant entered the back of the
10 dealership which contained new Tesla vehicles. Defendant concealed his identity by
11 wearing a black facial mask, sunglasses, gloves, and a dark hood sweatshirt. He also
12 carried a black backpack.



24 Once arriving, Defendant removed a red gas container from his backpack and
25 poured a liquid onto three Tesla vehicles parked on the north side wall.
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After pouring liquid on the Tesla vehicles, Defendant then placed a log type object to the right of the northeast door to the Tesla dealership.



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Defendant doused the log and dealership wall with liquid from the red gas container.

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Defendant then placed a second log-type object at the base of the wall between a silver Cybertruck and dark red Model Y. He again doused the wall and log-type object with liquid.

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Around this time, a white truck pulled to the adjacent parking lot; causing Defendant to quickly hide behind a dark red Model Y.

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After a short while, Defendant then placed a third log type object on the dealership wall, directly behind the silver Cybertruck.



Defendant then poured a large amount of liquid onto the log and wall area, leading to liquid puddling beneath the silver Cybertruck.



9 Defendant then removed a white colored spray can from his backpack and sprayed
10 “THEIF” on the east wall of the dealership.



1 After spray painting the wall, Defendant then unsuccessfully attempted to set fire a
2 silver Cybertruck near the north wall.



14 Defendant then proceeded to light the three logs placed next to the Tesla
15 dealership. All three ignited. The log and liquid near the silver Cybertruck resulted in
16 the largest fire, leading to the Cybertruck catching fire.



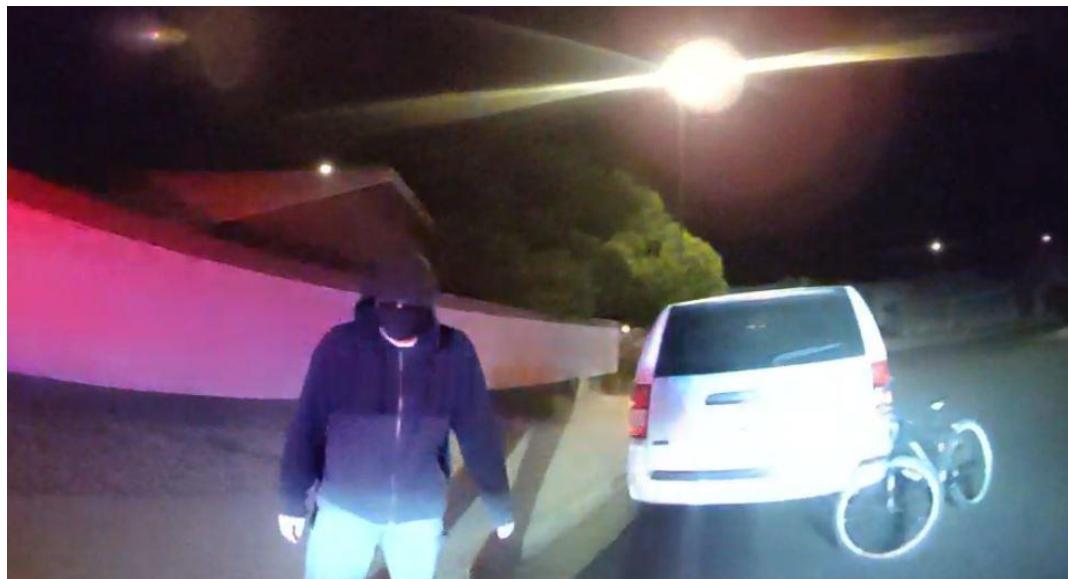
27 At approximately, 1:40 a.m., Defendant quickly fled the parking lot on his bike.
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1 The silver Cybertruck exploded at approximately 1:53 a.m.

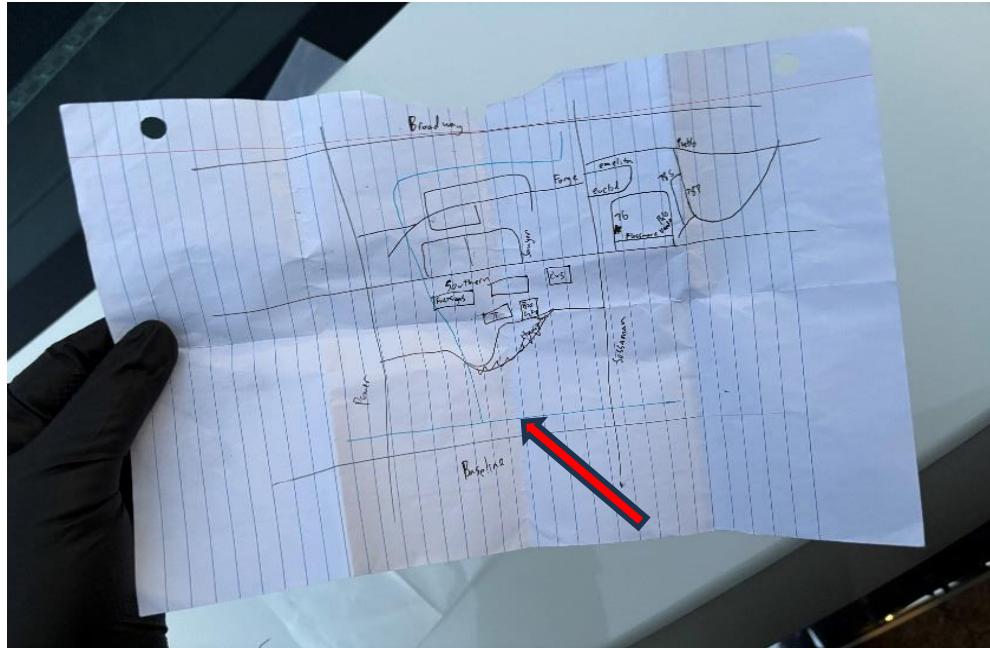


By approximately 2:20 a.m., Mesa Police Officers located Defendant's white van near Flower and Rowen streets. At least one of officer observed that the hood still was warm and observed a wallet in the front seat area. At approximately 3:00 a.m., a Mesa

1 Police Officer observed Defendant riding up to the white van on a bicycle and placing a
2 backpack into the front seat area. Defendant was subsequently detained and arrested.
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24 The officers located a handwritten overview map of the area in one of Defendant's
25 pockets. The map provided an overview of the area with streets, buildings, and with the
26 Tesla dealership depicted as a box with the letter "T."
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Officers determined that the white van was registered to Defendant and searched it pursuant to a warrant. In their search they located Defendant's wallet with his identification and the black backpack. Within the backpack, they discovered a lighter, red plastic gas can, and black spray paint can. Defendant's cell phone was later located in his residence.



On April 28, 2025, Defendant was charged with a single count of Malicious Damage

1 of a Vehicle in Interstate Commerce by Means of a Fire, in violation of Title 18, United
2 States Code, Section 844(i). (Dkt. No. 1.) Defendant was then indicted by federal grand
3 jury on April 30, for five counts of Malicious Damage to Vehicles or Property in Interstate
4 Commerce by Means of Fire. (Dkt. No. 8.)

5 **ARGUMENT**

6 **A. Legal Standard**

7 A defendant must be detained pending trial when “no condition or combination of
8 conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the person as required and the safety
9 of any other person and the community.” 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(1). In making an
10 individualized detention determination, a court must consider (1) the nature and
11 circumstances of the offense; (2) the weight of the evidence; (3) the history and
12 characteristics of the person, including character, physical and mental condition, family
13 ties, employment, financial resources, length of residence in the community, community
14 ties, and past conduct; and (4) the nature and seriousness of the danger to the community
15 that would be posed by the person’s release. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g); *United States v. Winsor*,
16 785 F.2d 755, 757 (9th Cir. 1986). Consideration of non-statutory factors is disfavored.
17 *United States v. Diaz-Hernandez*, 943 F.3d 1196, 1199 (9th Cir. 2019). Detention is
18 appropriate when a defendant is either a danger to the community or a flight risk; it is not
19 necessary to prove both. The government must establish danger by clear and convincing
20 evidence and must show flight risk by a preponderance of the evidence. *United States v.*
21 *Aitken*, 898 F.2d 104, 107 (9th Cir. 1990).

22 **B. Detention is Presumed**

23 Defendant faces a rebuttal presumption of detention. As set out in Section
24 3142, it is presumed that “no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure
25 the appearance of [the defendant] as required and the safety of the community” if the Court
26 finds there is probable cause that defendant committed an offense listed in the acts of
27 terrorism statute under Section 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which the maximum term of
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1 imprisonment is 10 years or more. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(3)(C). The Court can make this
 2 finding here as Defendant has been indicted for violating Section 844(i), an offense that
 3 carries a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years and is listed in Section
 4 2332b(g)(5)(B). *See* 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) (which lists out federal violations that
 5 may be considered federal crimes of terrorism).

6 To be clear, the presumption here does not require defendant be charged with the
 7 specific offense of 18 U.S.C. § 2332(b) (Acts of Terrorism transcending National
 8 Boundaries) as that charge carries its own rebuttable presumption under the detention
 9 hearing statute. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(3)(B) (identifying “an offense under section
 10 924(c), 956(a), or 2332b” of Title 18) (emphasis added). Nor does the detention statute
 11 require Defendant’s charge fit what is defined as a “Federal Crime of Terrorism,” requiring
 12 both a particular offense and a motivation “to influence or affect the conduct of government
 13 by intimidation or coercion, or to retaliate against government conduct.” *See* 18 U.S.C. §§
 14 2332b(g)(A) and (B). As plainly written, the detention hearing provision here refers to the
 15 list of offenses with maximum terms of imprisonments of ten or more years. The provision
 16 does not require the offense to be considered a federal crime of terrorism and what is
 17 described as terroristic motivation under Section 2332b(g)(A). *See* 18 U.S.C.
 18 3142(e)(3)(C); *United States v. Densmore*, 2020 WL 3060379 *2 (D.NV. June 9, 2020)
 19 (District Court applied the presumption of detention for the offense of Section 844(i)).

20 Thus, it is presumed that there no conditions or combinations of conditions will
 21 reasonably assure Defendant’s appearance at trial or safety of the public.

22 **C. Defendant is a Significant Flight Risk and will Flee if Given the
 23 Opportunity.**

24 Defendant cannot rebut the presumption as he is a significant flight risk. As set out
 25 herein, Defendant either damaged and destroyed, or tried to do so, a commercial building
 26 that houses employees and members of the public during business hours, and electric
 27 vehicles with lithium-ion batteries. His actions caused fires leading to a dangerous

1 explosion of a Tesla Cybertruck that was positioned to the right of a rear entryway door.
2 This created an extraordinary risk to anyone who could have been nearby, whether it be
3 concerned bystanders, Tesla cleaning staff, or first responders. The nature and
4 circumstances of defendant's conduct are thus extraordinarily serious and weigh in favor
5 of detention.

6 The weight of the evidence also supports detention. Defendant's actions were
7 recorded on video. He was quickly apprehended wearing the same clothing recorded on
8 video. And, he was in control or possession of the instrumentalities he used to cause
9 destruction. Thus, even though the weight of the evidence is generally considered the
10 "least important" factor, *Winsor*, 785 F.2d at 757, the overwhelming evidence supports
11 detention in this case. *See, e.g., United States v. Townsend*, 897 F.2d 989, 995 (9th Cir.
12 1990) (finding that the weight of the evidence—and defendants' resulting belief they may
13 be convicted as a result—weighed in favor of detention based on flight risk).

14 Furthermore, Defendant's personal characteristics suggest he will flee if given the
15 opportunity. Defendant carefully planned out his attack and took numerous steps to avoid
16 detection and capture. For instance, Defendant traveled to the dealership on bicycle and
17 not in a vehicle registered to his name. Defendant did not carry a wallet with identification
18 that could have been dropped or offered as identification if asked. Defendant did not carry
19 his cell phone, purposefully preventing law enforcement from tracking his movements.
20 Without his phone, Defendant had to carry hand drawn map of the area that identified street
21 names and the location of the Tesla dealership. Defendant took nearly every imaginable
22 step to conceal himself by wearing non-descript and dark clothing, sunglasses, gloves, and
23 a facial mask. Defendant's efforts to avoid detection and capture suggests he is more likely
24 to hide information from supervising officers and less likely to abide by conditions of
25 release set by the Court. *See United States v. Hoover*, No. CR-14-554-1-PHX-SRB, 2014
26 WL 2094201, at *5 (D. Ariz. May 20, 2014) (concluding that no combination of release
27 conditions would reasonably assure defendant's appearance given his "significant patterns
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1 and practices of criminal deception,” extensive foreign connections, and access to
 2 substantial financial assets); *United States v. Seif*, CR-01-0977-PHX-PGR, 2001 WL
 3 1415034, at *3 (D. Ariz. Nov. 8, 2001) (noting that given defendant’s past deception, his
 4 promise to appear at future court proceedings was “likely unreliable and trustworthy” and
 5 deserving of “little weight”).

6 Finally, Defendant faces mandatory minimum five-year sentences (and up to 20
 7 years) for each charged count in the Indictment. If ordered consecutively by the District
 8 Court, Defendant could face a minimum of 25 years of prison. Given these potential
 9 penalties, Defendant has a strong incentive to flee and avoid prosecution. *See Townsend*,
 10 897 F.2d at 995 (9th Cir. 1990) (noting that defendants had a greater incentive to flee when
 11 faced with the possibility of lengthy prison sentences).

12 Based on these factors, the government submits that Defendant cannot rebut the
 13 presumption as there are no conditions, or combination of conditions, that could reasonably
 14 assure his presence at trial.¹ Therefore, he should be detained.

15 **D. Defendant is a Danger to the Community**

16 Defendant also cannot rebut the presumption that he poses a significant danger to
 17 the community. Defendant’s plan was to fire damage or destroy a commercial business
 18 and electric vehicles that contained large lithium-ion batteries. He deliberately placed what
 19 were likely fire starter logs near the rear entrance of the building, and started a fire that
 20 caused a massive and dangerous explosion. This was clearly dangerous conduct that could

22 ¹ The government further believes that while an effective tool in some circumstances, GPS
 23 monitoring has limited utility in preventing defendant from fleeing. Supervisees on GPS
 24 monitoring are not subject to around-the-clock, real-time monitoring by their supervising
 25 officer. Moreover, arrest warrants are not issued the moment a defendant leaves his
 26 designated area—rather, that process may take days if a defendant absconds over a
 27 weekend. Defendants may use such a delay to leave the Court’s jurisdiction. *See, e.g.*,
Townsend, 897 F.2d at 994-95 (“[W]earing of an electronic device [does not] offer
 28 assurance against flight occurring before measures can be taken to prevent a detected
 departure from the jurisdiction.”); *United States v. Rhule*, No. CR-20-0105-JCC-2, 2020
 WL 5984072, at *6 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 8, 2020) (“A GPS tracker can be removed, and once
 it is, [defendant] could flee.”). This concern is especially acute here as Defendant took
 numerous steps to avoid detection and capture.

1 have injured, maimed, or killed someone in the building, or someone in or near the blast
2 radius of the exploding vehicle. Defendant's willingness to engage in such dangerous
3 conduct demonstrates he lacks any regard for the potential danger caused by his actions.
4 Thus, Defendant poses a significant risk to the public and should be detained pending trial.

5 **CONCLUSION**

6 For the foregoing reasons, the government respectfully requests Defendant be
7 detained pending trial.

8 Respectfully submitted this 1st day of May, 2025.

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13 *S/ Raymond K. Woo*

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 1, 2025, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF sealed system for filing lodged proposed sealed documents, and that I served the attached document by electronic mail, on the following, who may or may not be registered participants of the CM/ECF System:

Anthony Knowles, *Counsel for Defendant.*

/s/ Theresa Hanson
U.S. Attorney's Office